



The Ruskin Update

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Ruskin hosts Police Activities League on the Assembly Floor

On Monday, March 26th, Assemblymember Ira Ruskin recognized 4 students from the Redwood City Police Activities League for their dedication to public service. The students were honored as part of the statewide Police Activities League (PAL) Sacramento Experience. The program gives young people an opportunity to see government in action and interact with their state legislators.

Assemblymember Ruskin has been a supporter of the Police Activities League from his time on the Redwood City Council. He is a strong proponent of organizations providing young people with constructive outlets and activities. In addition to the PAL, Ruskin is also a supporter of the Sponsored Employment Program in East Palo Alto, a program which finds jobs for at risk youth.



Assemblymember Ira Ruskin with Officer Chris Rasmussen, Erin Niemeyer (advisor), and 4 youths from the Redwood City PAL Youth Leadership Council: Ally Colin, Evelyn Garcia, Vanessa Valencia, and Taylor Zeltmann

Ruskin's Clean Car Discount Act Passes First Hurdle

"The Clean Car Discount Act of 2007" (AB 493), introduced by Assemblymember Ira Ruskin (D-Redwood City), passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on March 26th. The vote was 8 to 5. This program is a market-based solution that will provide one-time consumer rebates on purchases of new vehicles that are cleaner.

"Today, an important step was taken in the fight against global warming. This bill will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from California. The Transportation Committee supported this commitment to continuing California's leadership on the issue of global warming," Ruskin stated.

This program creates a spectrum for cars and light trucks, from clean to dirty, and gives people an incentive to purchase cleaner vehicles. It will have compounding benefits: incentives to consumers will increase demand for low polluting cars; which, in turn, will spur manufacturers to produce more of them. This

program is funded through one-time surcharges on the dirtiest, most polluting new vehicles, thus preventing any cost to the state.

This news came just before the landmark US Supreme Court decision allowing for the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions as pollution. Previously, officials with the EPA, under the Bush Administration, had argued that they did not have the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, stating that carbon dioxide was not a pollutant. In a 5 to 4 ruling, the Supreme Court dismissed that argument.

"I am very pleased by the Court's ruling. It sends a clear message to the administration that they can no longer ignore this global problem. We must take action now, and if the Bush Administration won't, then we as Californians must," Ruskin said.